Third United Nations International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy

A/CONF.28/A/181
UNITED KINGDOM
February 1964
Original: ENGLISH

Confidential until official release during Conference

Abstract

DEVELOPMENT OF LICENSING AND INSPECTION OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

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The control of major nuclear installations, excluding those operated by the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, is regulated by the Nuclear Installations (Licensing and Insurance) Act, 1959. The Act requires an operator of a nuclear installation to hold a licence and sets out the licensee's liability and the provision he must make for covering it. It is a requirement that there shall be attached to the licence conditions as may be necessary or desirable in the interests of safety.

The Act specifies that a site shall not be used for installing or operating a nuclear reactor without a licence and gives powers for the prescription by regulation of other types of nuclear installations within a broad definition.

The administration of the Act requires that it shall be determined what installations should be prescribed and what conditions in the interests of safety should be attached to each licence.

The paper deals with the principles which have been applied and indicates how these were met in the original drafting of the regulations and conditions. Comments are made on the experience of the first few years of applying the regulations and conditions and outlines some of the changes which were made as the result of that experience. The paper also refers to the development of the siting policy for Nuclear Reactors and of the organisation of the Inspectorate which was set up for the administration of the Act.

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